

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability



## Overview



# Overview

*Where were you on August 14, 2003? If you were in the Northeastern United States and Canada, chances are your world stopped! Were you stuck in an elevator? Did your air conditioning go dead? Did you lose important data when your computer shut down without warning? Could you cook your dinner? Did you think the worst?*

When the power goes out for any reason, American lives and livelihoods are threatened. Essential appliances we rely on for refrigeration, lighting, heating, cooling and communication shut down. Roads, rails, airports and harbors are hampered and transportation becomes problematic or impossible. Hospitals, ambulances, police, fire and rescue services are strained, relying on emergency backup systems and struggling to bring in off-duty employees who are caught in the dark like everyone else. When the lights go out America's economy loses billions of dollars. Even worse, people can lose their lives.

Through research, development, planning and analysis, the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) works to create a future electricity system that is less vulnerable to disruption, more efficient, and is designed and operated to serve the new markets and new energy demands of the 21st century. When America's energy system is disrupted, we provide energy experts to assist first responders and local utilities in bringing energy systems back as quickly as possible. And OE works to broaden America's energy options by breaking down barriers to efficient electricity markets.

## Who We Are

**OE Research and Development Division** – we research and develop the next generation of electricity transmission and delivery technologies to make America's energy system less vulnerable and more productive in the future.

**OE Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration Division** – we help protect America's critical infrastructure from disruption and restore it as quickly as possible in emergencies.

**OE Permitting, Siting and Analysis Division** – we work to expand energy transmission and delivery capacity in the United States and between the United States and our neighbors. We study today's markets and regulations to identify better ways of managing and operating our energy systems in the future.

### Our Mission

To lead national efforts to modernize the electric grid, enhance the security and reliability of the energy infrastructure, and facilitate recovery from disruptions to the energy supply.

### Divisions

- Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration
- Research and Development
- Permitting, Siting and Analysis

### Director

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### Communications

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# What We Do

*"We must ... harness the power of technology to help us deliver electricity more efficiently. It's time for this country to build a modern electricity grid so we can protect American families and businesses from damaging power outages."*

— **President George W. Bush, June 15, 2005**

*"One of the greatest energy challenges facing America is the need to use 21st-century technology to improve America's aging energy infrastructure. Americans need a comprehensive, long-term solution to deliver energy to industry and consumers in a reliable and safe manner."*

*Our energy infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the changing requirements of our energy system. ... The energy infrastructure is vulnerable ... and power infrastructures have grown increasingly complex and interdependent. Consequently, any disruption can have extensive consequences."*

— **National Energy Policy, Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group**

The Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) has three major divisions, plus a National Energy Technology Laboratory Site Office that adds essential technical expertise to support infrastructure protection and emergency response efforts. We work to keep the lights on -- today and tomorrow:

- The Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration Division coordinates the Department of Energy's response to energy emergencies and helps State and local governments and the private sector recover from disruptions to the energy infrastructure. The Division works with government entities and industry to develop a viable critical infrastructure protection program to ensure the security of the nation's energy systems and a reliable flow of energy.
- The Research and Development Division manages a portfolio of projects to create "next generation" electric delivery technologies, and accelerate their introduction to the marketplace. Research and Development works with other Divisions to understand the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of today's grid and use the information to develop better technology for the future.

- The Permitting, Siting and Analysis Division authorizes international transmission facilities and exports of electricity, assists regional and state planning, and analyzes policy initiatives and legislative proposals in order to promote efficiency, environmental sustainability, and competition in the electric power industry.

Government alone cannot modernize and expand the nation's energy infrastructure, protect it from threats or quickly restore it in emergencies. Partnerships with those who can help—industry, utilities, States, other Federal programs and agencies, universities, national laboratories, and other stakeholders—are an essential element of the Office's efforts. Learn more about what we are doing to keep the lights on and how you might help by contacting us or visiting our website for more information, [www.oe.energy.gov](http://www.oe.energy.gov)